

# Pack of alpacas in Duxbury

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There's a new animal in town. Recently three alpacas moved into their new home with the Bulman family on Depot Street. They arrived at the Bulman's around Mother's Day and are adjusting well, according to the family.

The alpacas have certainly been noticed around town because they're not the typical Duxbury yellow lab. But, like labs, they make great pets. Maura Bulman has loved alpacas since she was a little girl and finally decided to try her luck with them. Everything is running smoothly so far.

"They're not much more care than a dog. They just need fresh water every day and their hay needs to be checked and changed every couple of days," Bulman said. Even scooping their poop is easy. They all go in the same area and it makes



The Bulmans say the Alpacas are friendly and make great pets.

wonderful compost which is a very valuable and organic resource.

Bulman has three children, Jason and Ave and a foster child named Jaquarre. Amazingly, the alpacas are wonderful with children because they are very sweet and curious, Bulman said. But, most importantly, alpacas actually prefer children because they are very timid by nature and feel less threatened by them. "They love anything at dog level," Jason said. All together the Bulmans have three alpacas, one for each of their children. Although they don't have official names yet, they are well on their way to becoming part of the family. They are trying to make the alpacas more comfortable and social by letting the kids hand feed them. This way the alpacas will learn to trust people a little more. Jason may also participate in a 4-H club and is currently in the early stages of halter training them.

The Bulmans have also set up an appropriate environment for them. They have fenced in an area of their front yard that

includes trees for shade as well as a little handmade hut for them if they want to get out of the rain or extreme heat. Many people in town are a little nervous with the alpacas so close to a busy street like Depot Street. Maura Bulman doesn't seem to be worried because alpacas are not likely to challenge a fence. They are herding animals that are timid and love to stay in one place. The fence was created more to keep other threats out because alpacas usually are kept without any fencing at all. "I'm more worried about having my children close to Depot Street," Maura said.

Overall, the alpacas are a nice addition to the town. They're friendly and make great pets. They are also not like llamas that can be very nasty, kicking and spitting. The Alpacas have this ability but will only use it if they feel extremely threatened.

The Bulmans encourage people to stop and say hello to the Alpacas because it will make them more social and trusting.

## Animals

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Jonas Bulman poses with one of his family's three pet alpacas. Jonas's mother, Maura, said she has always loved the animals.